

September 29th, 2017

Dear Dr. Joffrey Suprina,

I am writing to submit a conceptual article entitled “Love-Seeking or Attachment Disorder? A Holistic Review on Indiscriminate Friendliness in Adopted or Maltreated Children” for consideration by *The Practitioner Scholar: Journal of Counseling and Professional Psychology*. The manuscript is 21-page long including the title and references pages.

Authors of this article are: Yanhong Liu, Ph.D.; Laura J. Fullenkamp, MA; Diane M. Zimmer, MA. All three authors are affiliated with the Counselor Education program at the University of Toledo.

In this proposed article, we provide a holistic, thorough review on the current literature in regard to children’s indiscriminate friendliness (IF). The article proposes a critical dialogue on attachment, pathogenic care, and complexity and alternative explanations of children’s indiscriminate friendly behaviors to strangers.

We believe that this article fits very well with *The Practitioner Scholar: Journal of Counseling and Professional Psychology* with salient implications for clinical practice with children who have experienced adoption and/or maltreatment. This article initiates dialogue on dilemmas of categorizing IF and challenges involved in traditional diagnosis. It embraces divergent perspectives from empirical research and DSM diagnostic standards. The article demonstrates historical conceptualization of IF following two lines: 1) development of attachment theory and classification of attachment styles based on the theory; 2) evolvement of DSM from the third version to the latest DSM-V in relation to IF. It provides well-constructed arguments on insufficiency of parameters taken to define and measure IF. In this article, we also discuss IF, attachment, and attachment theory under different cultural contexts and encourage critical thinking on the influence of Western standards on clinical practice and research. It embraces divergent perspectives from empirical research and DSM diagnostic standards.

We confirm that this work has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. None of the authors has conflicts of interest to disclose. We look forward to hearing from *The Practitioner Scholar: Journal of Counseling and Professional Psychology* editorial board regarding the decision about this manuscript. Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me via email: yanhong.liu@utoledo.edu.

Sincerely,

Yanhong

Yanhong Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Counselor Education

School of Intervention and Wellness

The University of Toledo

2801 W. Bancroft Street, MS 119

Toledo, OH 43606-3390